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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/690,341	10/21/2003	Malcolm K. Scott	MCN611CON	2198
27777	7590	11/19/2004	EXAMINER	
PHILIP S. JOHNSON JOHNSON & JOHNSON ONE JOHNSON & JOHNSON PLAZA NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08933-7003			HUANG, EVELYN MEI	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1625	

DATE MAILED: 11/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/690,341

Applicant(s)

SCOTT ET AL.

Examiner

Evelyn Huang

Art Unit

1625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-105 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6,18-48,54,71-73 and 75-105 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7-17,49-53 and 55-70 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-105 are pending.

Election/Restrictions

2. In the restriction requirement mailed on 8-9-2004, claims 6, 54 and 105 (wherein X is hydrogen) of the Group II invention should be in grouped in Group I. The claims in the Group II invention are claim 74, and claims 1-5, 7-17, 49-53, 55-70 in part. A correction is hereby made.

Applicant has elected with traverse the Group II invention, claim 74, and claims 1-5, 7-17, 49-53, 55-70 in part. Group I (claims 6, 18-48, 54, 71-73, 75-105 and claims 1-5, 7-17, 49-53, 55-70 in part) and Group III (claims 1-5, 7-17, 49-53, 55-70 in part) are withdrawn as being drawn to the non-elected invention.

Applicant argues that searching all these groups would not be overly burdensome.

On the contrary, these inventions are structurally, chemically and patentably distinct. They have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification. A reference anticipating group I invention would not render obvious the Group II or Group III invention. The search is therefore not co-extensive and is burdensome. Since the search required for Group I would not be required for Group II or Group III, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Deletion of the non-elected subject matter is recommended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-5, 7-17, 49-53, 55-70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Art Unit: 1625

- a. Claims 1, 49, 66-69, in the structural formulae, if R1 is from one to three substituents, it is unclear how R1 can be at a fixed position as shown.
- b. Claims 1, 49, 55, 66, 68, 69, definition of Y, Y as H should be -H, H-.
- c. Claim 16, R4 as thiophene has no antecedent basis in the base claim 15 wherein R4 is heteroaromatic lower alkyl.
- d. Claim 64, R4 as thiophene has no antecedent basis in the base claim 15 wherein R4 is heteroaromatic lower alkyl.
- e. Claim 70,
 - It is recommended that --claim 1-- be inserted after 'compound of formula (I) to better define the claim.
 - For the method claim, the amount of the compound applied is missing but is required.

Double Patenting

4. A rejection based on double patenting of the "same invention" type finds its support in the language of 35 U.S.C. 101 which states that "whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process ... may obtain a patent therefor ..." (Emphasis added). Thus, the term "same invention," in this context, means an invention drawn to identical subject matter. See *Miller v. Eagle Mfg. Co.*, 151 U.S. 186 (1894); *In re Ockert*, 245 F.2d 467, 114 USPQ 330 (CCPA 1957); and *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970).

A statutory type (35 U.S.C. 101) double patenting rejection can be overcome by canceling or amending the conflicting claims so they are no longer coextensive in scope. The filing of a terminal disclaimer cannot overcome a double patenting rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. 101.

Claims 49-53, 56-61, 63-69, 74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 15-32, 34 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6509369. This is a double patenting rejection.

5. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible

Art Unit: 1625

harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-5, 7-17, 55, 62, 70 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-34 of U.S. Patent No. 6509369. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the patented compound and method of use thereof, are encompassed by the instant compound (R4 is broader in scope than the patented compound in that it can additionally be an alkyl having 2-12 carbon atoms), and the method of use thereof.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1-5, 7-17, 55, 62, 70 would be allowable upon overcoming the 112 second paragraph rejection and the obviousness type double patenting rejection.

Leboulluec (6028112) discloses a spirocyclopropyl fluorenyl compound useful as a melatogenic agent (columns 9-10, Table). Leboulluec's compound has a hydrogen instead of the instant R2.

Watson (5736578) discloses an ethylamido fluorenyl compound useful as a melatogenic agent (columns 11-12, Examples 5-33). Watson's compound has a hydrogen instead of the instant R2.

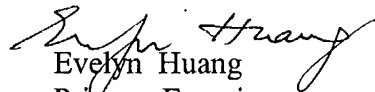
Lacking is the motivation to modify the compound of Leboulluec or Watson, alone or in combination, via multiple changes to arrive at the instant invention.

Art Unit: 1625

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Evelyn Huang whose telephone number is 571-272-0686. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cecilia Tsang can be reached on 571-272-0562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Evelyn Huang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1625